for biotic and abiotic stress management, molecular mapping and DNA fingerprinting.

(e) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Regional Centre of the National Institute of Organic Farming in Karnataka

3721. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a regional centre of the National Institute of Organic Farming in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any place has been identified for this purpose in the State;

(c) what are the advantages of having this proposed centre in the State; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent for centre every year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) During the Tenth Plan, a proposal for a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' with an outlay of Rs. 99.58 crores is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming, whose function will be to promote and facilitate various aspects of organic farming in the country. One of the Regional Biofertilizer Development Centre located at Bangalore, is proposed to be renamed as Regional Organic Farming Centre (ROFC). The scheme envisages *inter-alia* the following :—

- Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming;
- Capacity building for organic farming;
- Support for commercial production units of organic inputs like fruits and vegetables waste compost units, biofertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture, etc.;
- Promotion and extension of organic farming.

The ROFC, Bangalore will undertake the above activities in Southern Zone.